Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1715 - June 25 2010

This is a closed circuit advisory and no necessarily for air. With an update on Newsline's finances, here's our producer Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF:

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First the good news. As we go to air this week, all the bills through the end of May have been paid and we still have close to a thousand dollars left in the account. Not counting our upcoming costs in the presentation of the 2010 Young Ham of the Year Award, we hopefully have enough in the account to hold us over the summer.

Why the change from months past? Its mainly due to our adopting SKYPE Internet phone service to make most of our long distance phone calls. Unfortunately, SKYPE cannot call everywhere so we still have to maintain our regular long distance service. But that's gone from about $300 a month down to about $50. And as an added benefit the overall quality of the interview audio using Skype is vastly improved.

The bad news, if you can call it that, is that we still need to raise about $600 to cover our portion of the expenses in presenting the Young Ham of the Year Award that will take place in Huntsville, Alabama in mid-August.

While corporate underwriters Vertex Standard and CQ Magazine cover most of the expenses for the award recipient, we still have the obligation of sending a member of the Newsline team to officiate at the ceremony and we also host a Newsline sponsored dinner to honor the award winner.

Anyhow, if you can assist us in covering these expenses, tax deductible contributions can be made via Pay Pal at our website www.arnewsline.org, or by US mail to the address you will hear a the end of this weeks newscast. To which I say my personal thank-you for your support of Amateur Radio Newsline and our Young Ham of the Year Award program.

That ends the closed circuit advisory. I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, and now here's Frank Haas, KB4T, this weeks newscast. Frank

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Thank you Bill. Now, Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1715 with a release date of Friday, June 25, 2010 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. A Wisconsin town says a ham tower must be lowered. The I-A-R-U says that three member societies have gone missing. A sports event causes ham radio licensing delays in South Africa. The ARRL warns its members of an e-mail phishing scheme and a radio club in Whales gets a big grant to buy new gear. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1715 coming your way
 right
now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RADIO LAW: WISCONSIN TOWN ORDERS HAM TOWER TO BE LOWERED OR TAKEN DOWN

A family of Mount Pleasant, Wisconsin ham radio operators may soon have to significantly lower or get rid of their amateur radio tower. This following a decision by the township Plan Commission on Wednesday, June 16th. Amateur Radio Newsline's Norm Seeley, KI7UP, has the details:

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The Commissioners sitting on the Mount Pleasant panel unanimously rejected the request by Jim Markstrom, KB9MMA, to keep the 62-foot tower at his home. This, after staff members cited several concerns. These being that the height exceeds the limit allowed by a village ordinance; that a similar tower collapsed in the late 1990s; and concerns by neighbors said Markstrom misrepresented their views on it.

Madison attorney Mark Hazelbaker is representing the Markstroms. He pointed to federal and state laws that require local governments to "reasonably accommodate" amateur radio communication when the authority attempts to restrict it for health, safety or aesthetic reasons. He also noted that an engineer's report showed the tower's base was safe and actually overbuilt. Hazelbaker stated that even if it were to fall, the study suggests it would most likely collapse within itself.

He said lowering the tower to 28 feet which the highest allowed by Mount Pleasant based on the distance it could fall, would unreasonably limit transmissions. But Mount Pleasant officials countered that wasn't the case with a ham radio tower that fell onto a play area at home fewer than 15 years ago.

Jim Markstrom is a 35-year-old professor and engineer who volunteers as amateur radio emergency coordinator for Racine County. His 10-year-old son Samm, KC9POP, recently won an award for relaying severe weather reports via ham radio.

Mount Pleasant began investigating the tower after receiving complaints from nearby residents about interference on home electronics. Although local governments cannot legally intervene on that basis, officials determined Markstrom never received zoning approval to put up the tower. Ten neighbors signed a petition asking Mount Pleasant to order its removal.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Norm Seeley, KI7UP, in Scottsdale.

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Attorney Hazelbaker said the Markstroms still hope to work with village officials to find a better resolution. But he also warned that further legal action is a possibility. (Journal-Times, eHam, others)

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WORLDBEAT: WORLD CUP DELAYS ISSUANCE OF HAM LICENSES IN SOUTH AFRICA

A major sporting event has come in the way of issuing new hams their call letters and licenses in South Africa.

According to the South African Radio League, candidates who recently passed the nations radio amateur exam will have to wait a while longer before receiving their ham tickets. This is because the person at the nations telecommunications agency who is responsible for issuing amateur radio call signs has been temporarily reassigned to process applications for the 2010 F-I-F-A World Cup soccer championship. As such, he has had to focus on dealing with all aspects of spectrum licensing requests for this epic event.

The South African Radio League says that it is in constant contact with the regulatory body and that the new licensees will be issued their callsigns as soon as they become available. It also asks those on the waiting list to be patient and not contact the telecommunications regulator in any personal effort to try to speed up the process. The South African Radio League says that this will just create frustration for the applicant, the SARL as well as the licensing authority. It could also result in further delays. (SARL)

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WORLDBEAT: THREE IARU MEMBER SOCIETIES GO MISSING

The International Amateur Radio Union reports it has not been able to contact three national ham radio societies for at least five years and believes that there is no evidence of their continued existence. The three groups are the Papua New Guinea Amateur Radio Society, CORA in French Polynesia and The Burma Amateur Radio Transmitting Society. Under its rules the IARU it has called for evidence to be submitted that these radio societies are in existence by no later than September 13, 2010.

Meantime in other changes, the Radio Club of Paraguay has been reinstated to full IARU membership status, the Union des Radioamateurs du Congo is a newly is a newly elected member, and a membership application is being considered from the Montenegrin Amateur Radio Pool formed in October 2008.   (VK3PC)

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WORLDBEAT: OMAN GIVES HAMS 6 METERS

The International Amateur Radio Union's Region One website reports that Omani hams have been given access to part of the 6 meter band. The report attributed to A41KB says that radio amateurs in that nation can now use the 50 to 52 MHz under permit by the Omani Telecommunications Regulatory Authority. Omani hams have this access on a secondary basis to other users of the spectrum. More is on line at www.iaru-r1.org. (IARU Region 1)

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WORLDBEAT: THAI HAMS TO HAVE 6 METERS FOR CQWW VHF CONTEST

Hams in Thailand have been authorized to use of 6 meters during the CQWW VHF contest. Thai amateur radio operators to operate 50 to 54 MHz during the CQ Worldwide VHF contest for 48 hours on July 17th and 18th by a

blanket permit granted by the National Telecommunications Commission. This will be the first use of the 50 to 54 MHz allocation by Thai hams for 18 years. The last time such permission had been granted was in 1992 during the Southeast Asia Net Convention that year. (RAST)

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BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the N4MWA repeater serving the amateur radio community of Phelps, Kentucky.

(5 sec pause here)

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ALERT: ARRL WARNS OF E-MAIL PHISHING SCAM

The ARRL says that crooks are trying to use its identity to try to get members personal information and its waning members to ignore any requests seemingly coming from the League asking for such data. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennent, K6PZW reports:

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In a posting to its website, the ARRL says that it has received several reports from members with arrl dot net e-mail accounts. These people tell the League that they have recently been contacted via e-mail with requests asking for personal information, such as user names and passwords.

The ARRL says that these e-mails are fraudulent attempts at phishing and did not originate from that organization. For those not aware, the term phishing, which is pronounced fishing but spelled with a ph, is where a cyber criminal will use someone else's trusted name, e-mail or both to try to get you to send them your personal information.

According to ARRL Chief Financial Officer Barry Shelley, N1VXY, there is never a time when the League would ask via mass e-mail for user names and passwords of arrl dot net users. He says that if you receive an e-mail asking for personal information and it looks like it originated from ARRL, do not respond. Shelley says to just delete it.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

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On a technical level, Shelley says that this is a very crude attempt at phishing, using an easily determined spoof of the originating and return address. (ARRL)

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ENFORCEMENT: FCC FINES THREE WHO AIDED UNLICENSED BROADCASTER

The FCC has jointly fined three Massachusetts residents $10000. This for

what the regulatory agency calls providing services and facilities incidental to the operation of an unlicensed transmitter.

In simpler terms, it means that the regulatory agency determined that Delroy Johnson, Paul Parara, and Richard Parara were in some way sanctioning or supporting the operation unlicensed transmitters on 97.5 MHz in Hyde Park and Dorchester, Massachusetts. Its not asserting that any of the three ran the transmitting facility, but that their support made it possible for the transmissions to be made.

By way of background, this past March 8th the Commission's New York Field Office issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture in the amount of $10,000 to the three regarding this matter. Neither Johnson nor the Parara's has filed a response to the NAL. So, based on the information before us it the FCC has affirmed the fine and given the three the customary 30 days to pay or to file an appeal. (FCC)

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RESCUE RADIO: HAMS RESPOND TO BILLINGS MONTANA TORNADO

Ham radio was there in the afternoon hours of June 20th when severe weather struck the plains city of Billings, Montana. With very little notice a tornado formed and touched down. Damage was severe to several businesses and a sports arena.

Radio amateurs trained in emergency response were quickly involved in this event providing communications assistance. The Yellowstone County Amateur Radio Emergency Service team provided Skywarn communications to the National Weather Service office in Billings which included the first reports of the tornado on the ground and the damage it caused.

Tom Frieders is a Warning Coordination Meteorologist with the National Weather Service. He says that the ham radio operators played a key role in giving them needed information in order to provide accurate and timely warnings to the public. (N0QXW)

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HAM RADIO ON THE NET: QRZ.COM REACHES 400,000 USER MILESTONE

And a word of congratulations to our friends at QRZ dot come. This as the website registers its 400,000th user into the system over the weekend of June 19th and 20th. QRZ founder and owner Fred Lloyd, AA7BQ, says that he does not know exactly who it was when it happened, but it made his group very proud just the same.

Lloyd also says that on Friday, June 18th that QRZ installed another 12gb of RAM into its two main servers which doubled the amount that they previously were using. Prior to the upgrade, QRZ could service 350 simultaneous requests. Now, that number has jumped to nearly 1000. (QRZ)

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PROPAGATION NEWS: IARU REGION 1 BEACON GUODE UPDATED FOR MGM

With more and more VHF DX openings taking place there's some good news regarding propagation beacons operating in IARU Region One. This with word the regions VHF Beacon Guide has been updated for Machine Generated Modes or MGM.

The change comes as the result of a recent meeting in Vienna, Austria where the Region-1 VHF Handbook has been updated to version 5.42. The chapter on Beacons has been updated with Machine Generated Modes messaging options and can now be seen at tinyurl.com/22lasba. (Southgate)

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: LAST CALL FOR PAPERS FOR AMSAT-UK COLLOQUIUM 2010

Turning to the ham radio social scene, AMSAT-UK has issued a final call for speakers for its Colloquium 2010. This event is set for July 31st through August 1st at the Holiday Inn at Guildford in the United Kingdom.

Speakers are invited on a variety of amateur radio space related and associated activities. The submission of a papers by speakers for presentation at the colloquium along with any PowerPoint or similar material should be made by e-mail to david (dot) johnson (at) blackpepper (dot) co (dot) uk (AMSAT-UK)

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: MICHIGAN NET CELEBRATES 75th ANNIVERSARY

And congratulations to the Michigan Net also known as Q-M-N as it celebrates its 75th anniversary this year. QMN is the nation's oldest public service communications network, having been in continuous operation since late 1935.

QMN conducts routine CW traffic nets on 3563 kHz daily. It also sponsors the National Radio Emergency Net that provides nationwide communications support for major disaster operations as well as an ongoing training program serving the entire United States.

More Information on the Michigan Net is on line at www.michigannet.org
 (WB8SIW)

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: HAMRADIO IN GERMANY

Europes Hamtronic show in Friedrichshafen, Germany better known simply as HamRadio takes place as we go to air on Friday, June 25th and continuing through to Sunday the 27th. For the first time as part of this international exhibition there will be a Contest University dedicated to training beginners and professionals in the art of radiosports.

Also, this 35th annual show also happens to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the founding of the German Amateur Radio Club, better known as the DARC.

HamRadio is often referred to as the Dayton of Europe. We will have more

on the show upcoming in future Amateur Radio Newsline reports. (DARC)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: SUMBANDILASAT BACK ON LINE

South Africa's Sumbandila amateur radio satellite is back on the air. SO-67 as its known in AMSAT parlance carries an FM transponder are Uplink 145.875 MHz and Downlink 435.345 MHz +/- Doppler shift and is available for all hams to use world-wide. (ZR1JAK)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: NAME THE SA CUBESAT PROJECT

South Africa-AMSAT is inviting radio amateurs in that nation to propose a name for its CubeSat project. The group says that the name should be a single word in any of South Africa's official languages and reflect the spirit of the project.

For those not aware, a CubeSat is a 10 cm cube with a mass of up to 1 kg. The South African CubeSat project was announced at the recently held Space Symposium and will involve the design and construction of the flight hardware.

And less we forget, the closing date to submit an entry is the 15th of July. Entries should be sent by e-mail to saamsat (at) intekom (dot) co (dot) za. (Southgate)

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RADIO IN SPACE: THE LUNAR LANDER CUBESAT PROJECT

In a story first reported in the European E-E Times, Vermont Technical College, Norwich University, St. Michael's College, and the University of Vermont are working together to land a tiny CubeSat on the moon.

The design team is currently working on initial proposal for the spacecraft. This, with the aim of achieving further NASA funding in June 2011. Primary funding for this effort is already being provided by the Vermont Space Grant Consortium under NASA grant.

In the current phase of the program The Vermont CubeSat project, led by Professor Carl Brandon of Vermont Technical College aims to launch by

2015. It is developing the first CubeSat that can be launched from a geostationary orbit to successfully land on the moon. The CubeSat electronics are based on a Texas Instruments MSP430 processor and the software will control navigation, communications, scientific instruments, camera and the CubeSat's propulsion system. No word on what modes and radio bands it will operate. More is on-line at tinyurl.com/22vuz7q (EE Times, Southgate, ANS)

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RADIO IN SPACE: NASA RELEASES KEPLER DATA ON EXTRASOLAR PLANETS

NASA's Kepler Mission has released 43 days of science data on more than 156,000 stars it has radioed back to Earth. Astronomers will use the new data to determine if orbiting planets are responsible for brightness variations in several hundred stars.

These stars make up a full range of temperatures, sizes and ages. Many of them are stable, while others pulsate. Some show starspots, which are similar to sunspots, and a few produce flares that would sterilize their nearest planets. These stars are being monitored for subtle brightness changes as part of an ongoing search for Earth-like planets outside of our solar system. (NASA/Ames Research Center)

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ON THE AIR: THE STATELY HOMES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

On the air, the Castles And Stately Homes On The Air in Northern Ireland will have a major activation on July 16th. This with word that MI0RYL has obtained permission to activate both the Stormont Parliament Buildings and Stormont Castle within the estate of the same name in Belfast.

Propagation permitting, MI0RYL hopes to operate on as many bands and modes as possible throughout the day so as to allow as many amateurs as possible the opportunity to make contact. To commemorate this operation a special QSL card will be issued to any contacts that are made. (IRTS)

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DX

In DX, we begin with word that NN3W reports that over 13,000 QSO's for the 9M2HB operation have been uploaded to Logbook Of The World. He thanks N-K-Zero-S for doing the data conversion.

On the air, CT1BOH will be active as CR3E from Madeira during the 2010 IARU High Frequency World Championship Contest on July 10th and 11th. QSL via W3HNK.

WB4WXE will be portable J6 on St. Lucia through July 7th concentrating his operation on 6 meters. At times with no propagation on 6 you will find him on 17, 15 or 40. QSL via WB4WXE.

GM0VMW currently is on duty on in the Falkland Islands and is operating as VP8DND/P on 20 through 2 meters. He's on the air as time permits. QSL

direct via his home call.

If you hear a station signing the call TS7C you will waste your time making contact with him. It seems that the callsign TS7C was a DXpedition to Kerkenah, Tunisia, done back in January of 2009. This callsign is unique and hasn't been reissued.

Lastly, the planned operation from Gabon has been cancelled. I2YSB has announced that the new destination for the team will be Togo with the operation taking place during the month of October. They expect to operate with three stations on all the bands. No other details have been provided other than the pilot station will be IK7JWY.

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THAT FINAL ITEM: WELSH RADIO CLUB RECEIVES 5000 POUND GRANT

An amateur radio club in Wales is one of 199 community projects to be awarded grants from the United Kingdom's Big Lottery Fund. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in the newsroom with the details:

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The fund's Awards for All program has made a 5000 Pound grant to the Porthmadog and District Amateur Radio Society in the United Kingdom. This, to permit it to buy new equipment.

The clubs spokesman is Gary Brookes.   Brooks says that this is excellent news, and they are obviously very grateful to the National Lottery for the grant.

Brooks notes that his is a small club, but this is a massive investment, and a big opportunity to promote the society, and what we do in the area. The grant monies will enable more local people to learn about the hobby and to get involved.

The Big Lottery Fund distributes monies on behalf of the National Lottery to good causes across the United Kingdom. Its goal is to enable others to make real improvements to communities and the lives of people across that nation.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in Los Angeles.

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Currently, 5000 Pounds is the equivalent of about $7400 United States Dollars. (Caernarfon and Denbigh Herald)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is

newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), 28197 Robin Avenue, Santa Clarita California, 91350

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Frank Haas, KB4T, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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